

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 EB-11 COME-00 LAB-06 SIL-01

TRSE-00 DRC-01 OMB-01 ACDA-19 /172 W

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R 131210Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0049

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

USMISSION USUN NY

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LUANDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 2530

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SF, MZ

SUBJ: SAG VIEWS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN MOZAMBIQUE

REF: A) PRETORIA 2478 NOTAL

B) LUSAKA 1167 NOTAL

C. PRETORIA 2318

D) PRETORIA 2274 NOTAL

E. LISBON 2416 NOTAL

1. SOUTH AFRICAN MINFOREIGN AFFAIRS, DR. HILGARD MULLER SPEAKING

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AT JUNE 12 PRESS CONFERENCE IN PRETORIA, WARNED THAT IT WOULD

BE UNWISE AND UNREALISTIC, AS FRELIMO LEADER THREATENED EARLIER THIS WEEK (PARA 2, REF A), FOR BLACK GOVERNMENT IN MOZAMBIQUE TO APPLY SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA OR TO WITHDRAW ITS LABOR FORCE FROM SOUTH AFRICAN MINES.

2. MULLER SAID COOPERATION IN ECONOMICALLY INTERDEPENDENT COUNTRIES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA "IS TO OUR MUTUAL ADVANTAGE." AS FONSEC BRAND FOURIE HAD DONE DURING AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON MAY 30 (PARA 4, REF C), MULLER EMPHASIZED ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE TO MOZAMBIQUE OF EMPLOYMENT OF THOUSANDS OF WORKERS IN SOUTH AFRICAN MINES AND SA'S USE OF THE PORT OF LOURENCO MARQUES. "SOUTH AFRICA WOULD SUFFER A TEMPORARY INCONVENIENCE," HE SAID, SHOULD HARBOR OF LOURENCO MARQUES BE CLOSED TO SA, BUT SOUTH AFRICA COULD ACCELERATE DEVELOPMENT OF PORT AT RICHARDS BAY AND FIND ALTERNATIVE ROUTES TO SEA. MOZAMBIQUE, HOWEVER, COULD NOT FIND ALTERNATIVE SOURCES FOR "ENORMOUS REVENUES" IT WOULD LOSE. HE SAID SAME ARGUMENT APPLIED TO CABORA BASSA, WHICH WITHOUT SOUTH AFRICAN PURCHASES "WILL NOT BE AN ECONOMIC PROPOSITION."

3. MULLER ALSO STATED HE BELIEVES DEVELOPMENTS IN PAT'S COULD POSSIBLY HELP SOUTH AFRICA'S RELATIONS WITH THE REST OF AFRICA. HE VIEWS SITUATION AS "A CHALLENGE TO SOUTH AFRICA," WHICH "COULD PROVIDE ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR US... TO PROVE ONE AGAIN THAT WE CAN HAVE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING STATES REGARDLESS OF WHO IS IN POWER THERE."

4. COMMENT: MULLER'S STATEMENT FURTHER CONFIRMATION OF SAG'S APPARENTLY SINCERE DESIRE FOR A STABLE GOVERNMENT IN MOZAMBIQUE WHICH WILL CONTINUE "TO DO BUSINESS" WITH SA. SAG UNDERSTANDABLY APPREHENSIVE THAT RADICAL ELEMENTS MAY COME TO POWER IN MOZAMBIQUE, BUT, SHORT OF DIRECT MILITARY PROVOCATION, APPEARS READY AND ABLE TO ACCEPT "TEMPORARY INCONVENIENCE" OF ECONOMIC WARFARE. IN THIS REGARD, SAG PROBABLY REASSURED BY PRESIDENT SPINOLA'S JUNE 11 STATEMENT OF POLICY ON PAT'S (REF D) WHICH EXPRESSED HIS DETERMINATION THAT TRANSFER OF POWER BE BOTH GRADUAL AND ORDERLY.
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